

# Presbyornithidae

**Presbyornithidae** is an extinct group of birds with a global distribution. They had evolved by the late Cretaceous period and became extinct during the early Miocene. Initially, they were believed to present a mix of characters shown by waterbirds, shorebirds and flamingos and were used to argue for an evolutionary relationship between these groups,<sup>[2]</sup> but they are now generally accepted to be waterfowl closely related to modern ducks, geese, and screamers.<sup>[3]</sup>

They were generally long-legged, long-necked birds, standing around one meter high, with the body of a duck, feet similar to a wader but webbed, and a flat duck-like bill adapted for filter feeding. At least some species were social birds that lived in large flocks and nested in colonies, while others, like the Wilaru species, were terrestrial and solitary.<sup>[3]</sup>

Several genera have been classified as presbyornithids:

- Presbyornis (type)
- Headonornis (disputed)
- Telmabates
- Teviornis
- Proherodius
- Zhylgaia
- Wilaru<sup>[3]</sup>


There are some other, undescribed, presbyornithid or possible presbyornithid remains, such as the partial right scapula BMNH PAL 4989, which was considered part of *Headonornis hantoniensis*, but cannot be positively referred to a known taxon, or the Late Cretaceous remains from the Mongolian Barun Goyot Formation at Uday Sayr and the Nemegt Formation of Tsagaan Kushu.

## References

1. Wetmore, Alexander (1926). "Fossil birds from the Green River Deposits of Easter Utah". *Annals of the Carnegie Museum*. **16**: 391–402.

2. Feduccia, Alan (1976). "Osteological evidence for shorebird affinities of the flamingos" (<http://so ra.unm.edu/sites/default/files/journals/auk/v093n03/p0587-p0601.pdf>) (PDF). *Auk*. **93** (3): 587–601. JSTOR 4084959 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/4084959>).

3. Vanesa L. De Pietri; R. Paul Scofield; Nikita Zelenkov; Walter E. Boles; Trevor H. Worthy (2016). "The unexpected survival of an ancient lineage of anseriform birds into the Neogene of Australia: the youngest record of Presbyornithidae" (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4785986>). *Royal Society Open Science*. **3** (2): 150635. doi:10.1098/rsos.150635 (<https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.150635>). PMC 4785986 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4785986>). PMID 26998335 (<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26998335>).

Presbyornithidae	
Temporal range:	
Late Cretaceous – Miocene.	
71–15 Ma	
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Scientific classification 	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Aves
Order:	Anseriformes
Superfamily:	Anatoidea
Family:	†Presbyornithidae <div>Wetmore, 1926<sup>[1]</sup></div>
Genera	
See text	

## External links

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- [Reconstruction of \*Presbyornis\* at pixel-shack.com \(http://www.pixel-shack.com/critters/WebImages/crittersgallery/Presbyornis.jpg\)](http://www.pixel-shack.com/critters/WebImages/crittersgallery/Presbyornis.jpg)
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